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Docket No. 49458 CPA (71987)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Chen et al.

U.S.S.N.: 09/454,316

GROUP: 1754

FILED: December 3, 1999

EXAMINER: E. Johnson

FOR: CATALYST FOR OXACYLATION AND USE OF SAME

Mail Stop: RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Applicants are filing the instant preliminary amendment and accompanying Request for Continued Examination within seven (7) months of the filing of the Notice of Appeal on November 26, 2002. Applicants request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 5 of this paper.